

**GREAT BOOKS  
FOR BEGINNER &  
TRANSITIONAL  
READERS**

# Hello! We are Youth Services Librarians at Messenger Public Library!



**Juliet Van Vossen**  
Youth & Teen Services Librarian



**Vicki Evans**  
Youth & Teen Services Librarian



**Rebecca Gal**  
Youth & Teen Services Librarian



**Michelle Kurczak**  
Head of Youth & Teen Services



**Sue Skells**  
Youth & Teen Services Librarian

# Welcome!




## Talk Messenger Library

We are pretty awesome and helpful!



## Talk book, books, and more books

There will be spoilers, sorry!



## Give you lists with even more books

Find today's titles and more at <https://bit.ly/3i0JH5a>



## Answer your questions!

We love questions! That's our job!

# We want to support you!

## \* Messenger Library has tons of great resources for you!

- School Accounts (for North Aurora schools) for teacher checkout will return in 2021-22
- Dial a Story: Call 630-866-8689 to listen to books, jokes and more for all ages. Preview the monthly listing at [messengerpl.org](http://messengerpl.org)
- No overdue fines! It's fine free to check out at Messenger Public Library! Tell your students!
- Librarians who love to share books, help teachers and students find resources for assignments, and encourage a love of reading and learning

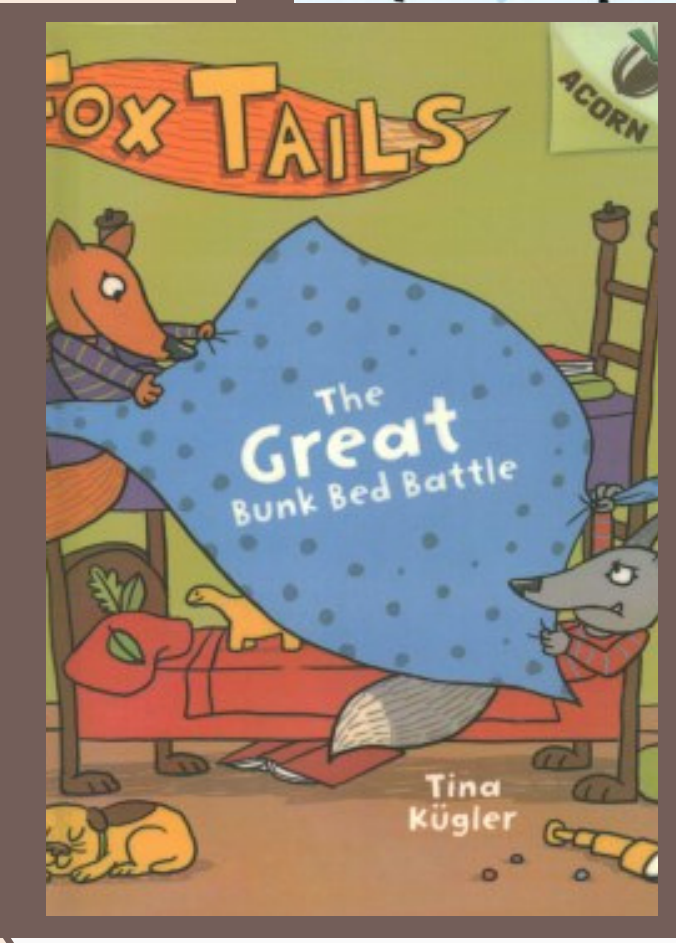
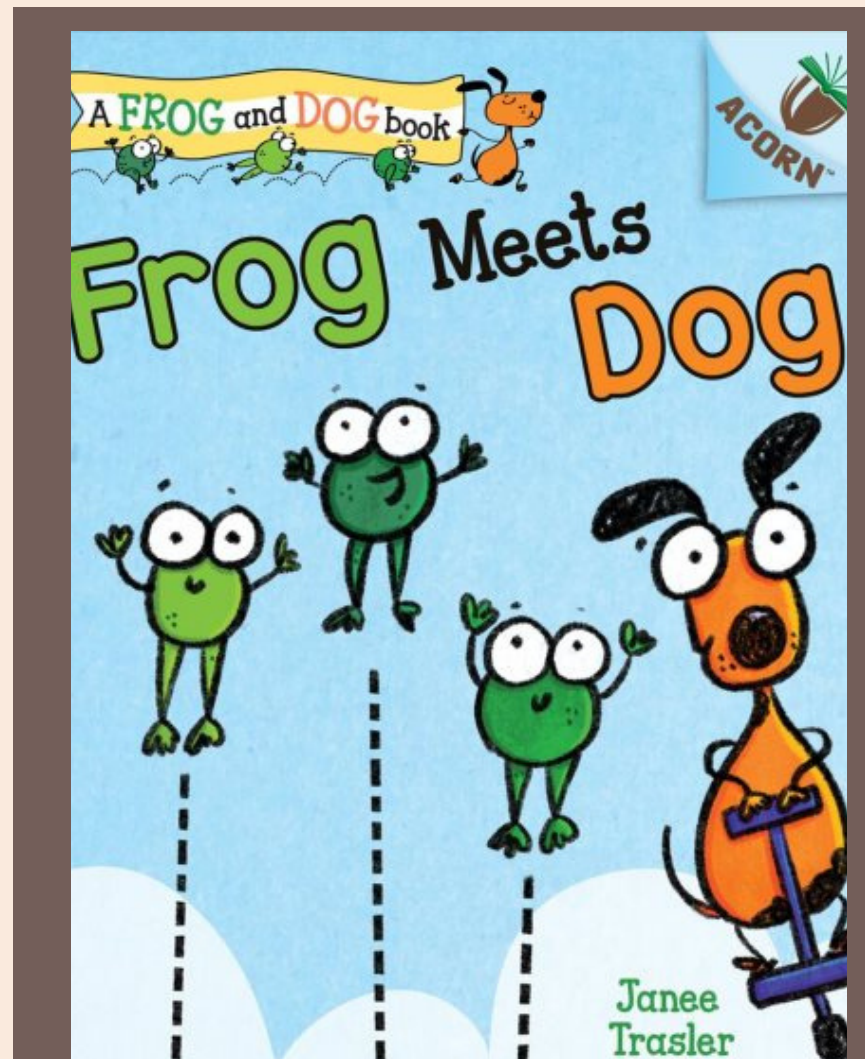
## How do I use Messenger Public Library?

- Do you have a library card? Great!
  - Is it from a SWAN library? You can already use it to check out physical items like books and DVDs at Messenger!
  - Is it from a non-SWAN library (eg. Aurora, Naperville, Oswego)? You will need to talk with our User Services staff to have your card added to our computer system. Then you'll be able to check out at any SWAN library!
- No library card? Visit your home library (where you pay property taxes) with photo ID and proof of address to get your library card, then follow the SWAN/non-SWAN instructions.

# Acorn Books

from Scholastic

- comic-inspired readers with speech bubbles
- drawing how-to at end of each book
- Frog and Dog by Janee Trasler
  - 50-180L
  - funny (depictions of physical comedy), rhyming, friendship
  - for earliest of readers
- Fox Tails by Tina Kügler (Geisel honor winner)
  - 310-330L
  - funny, cartoony, well-crafted dialogue
- Unicorn and Yeti by Heather Ayris Burnell
  - 300-380L
  - feel-good, cartoony, fanciful, silly, colorful

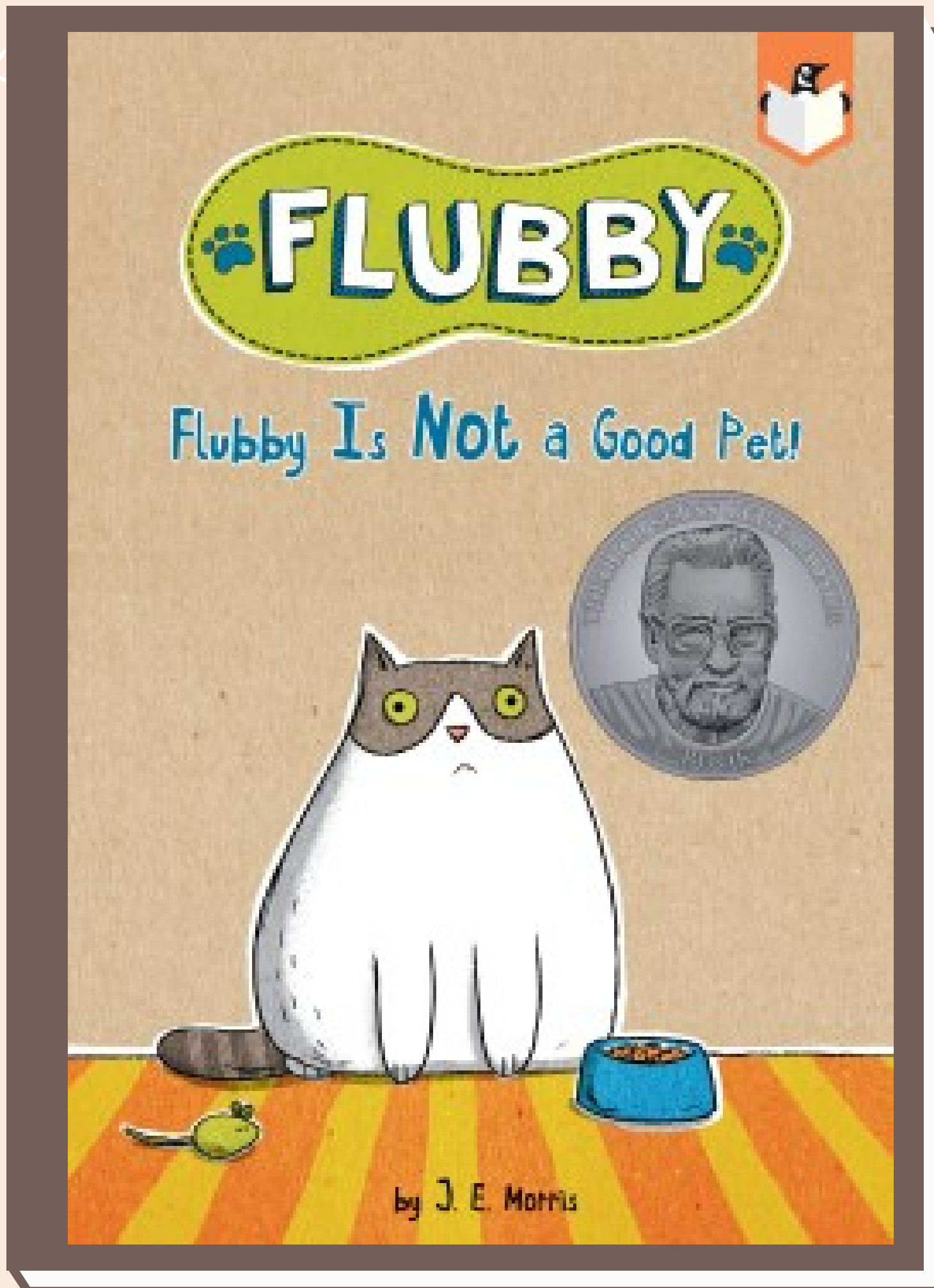


# Pizza and Taco (series)\*

By Stephen Shaskan

- 290-300L
- characters: anthropomorphic, duos
- illustrations: big and bold, inventive
- zany and absurd storyline with visual comedy
- easy-to-follow structure and simple dialogue
- for those not yet ready for *Dog Man*
- for those who enjoy:
  - *Noodleheads* by Tedd Arnold
  - *Narwhal and Jelly* by Ben Clanton
- Book 2: *Best Party Ever!*





# Flubby (series)

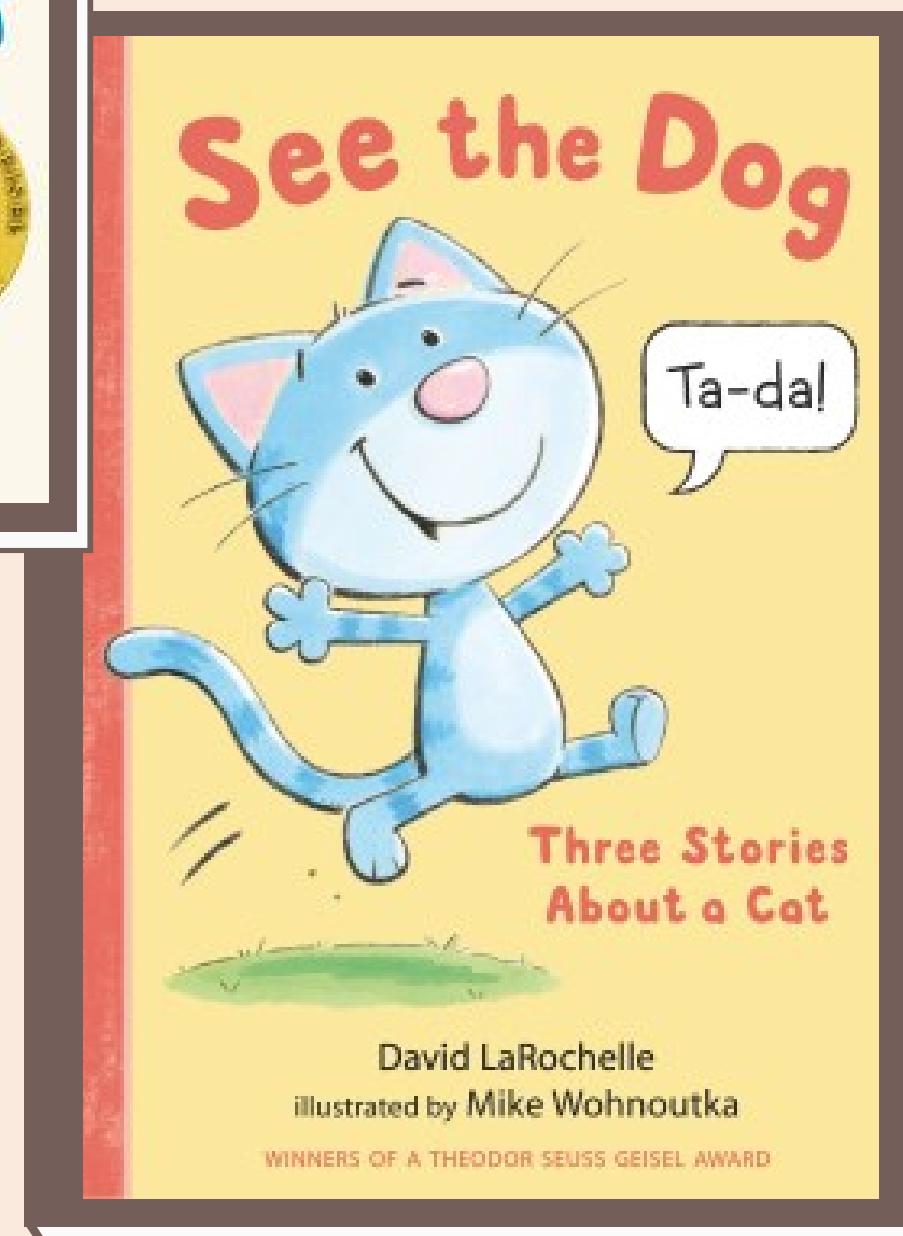
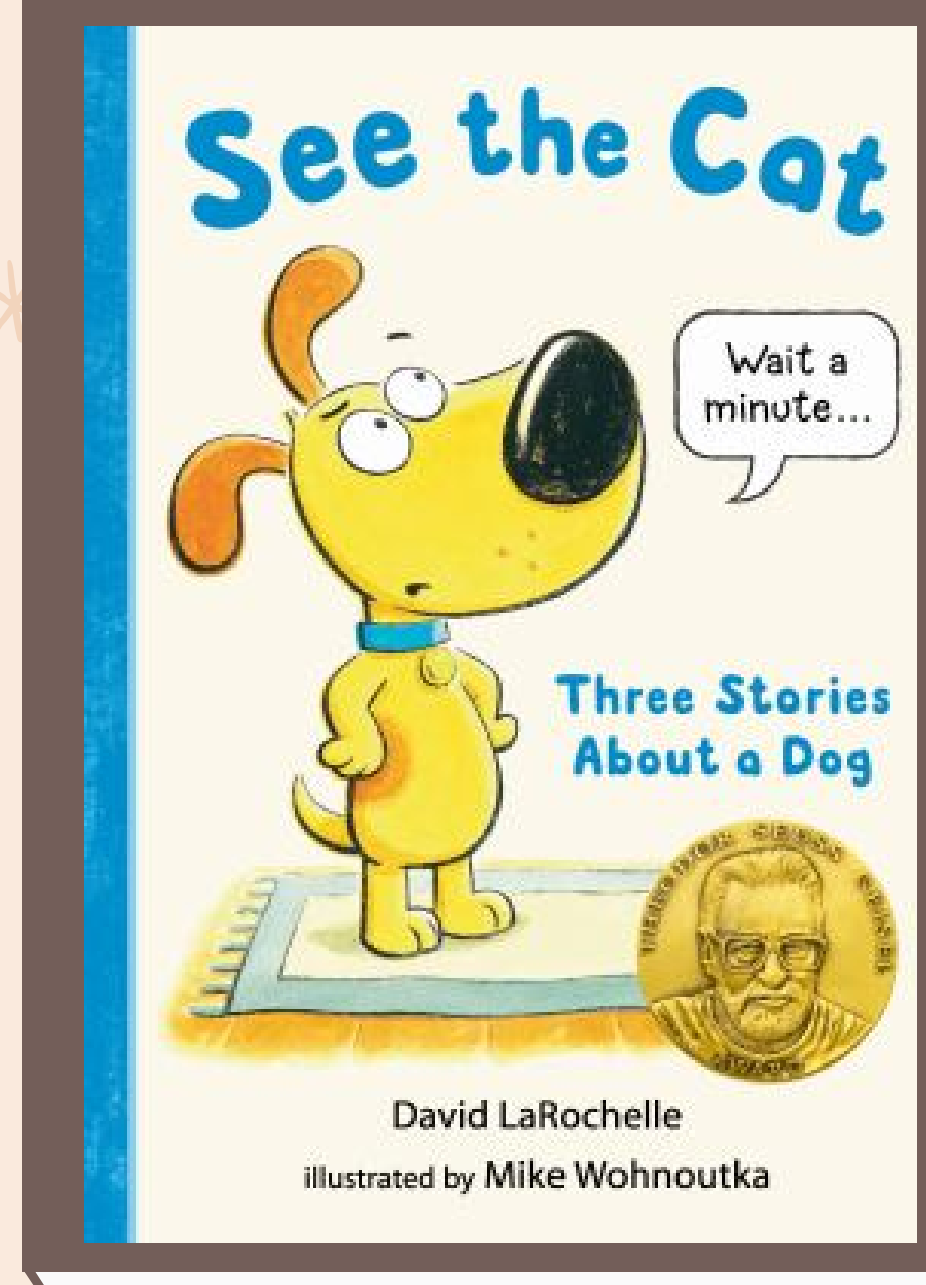
by J.E. Morris

- 140-150L
- 2020 Geisel Honor
- illustrations: cartoony, animated
- spare writing
- droll and sweet
- human characters present as Asian, Black, white
- short, simple text interspersed with speech bubbles and asides
- sequel: *Flubby Will NOT Play with That!*
- Books 3 and 4 coming out this fall!

# See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog

By David LaRochelle

- Grades: pre-k to 3
- Easy reader
- By David LaRochelle and Mike Wohnoutka, Geisel Award winners 2021
- \* • Three simple chapters, sardonic cartoon illustrations, simple sentences, wordplay
- For those who enjoy:
  - humor
  - cats and dogs
  - *Pigs Make Me Sneeze* by Mo Willems
  - *The Cookie Fiasco* by Dan Santat
- *See the Dog* out in September

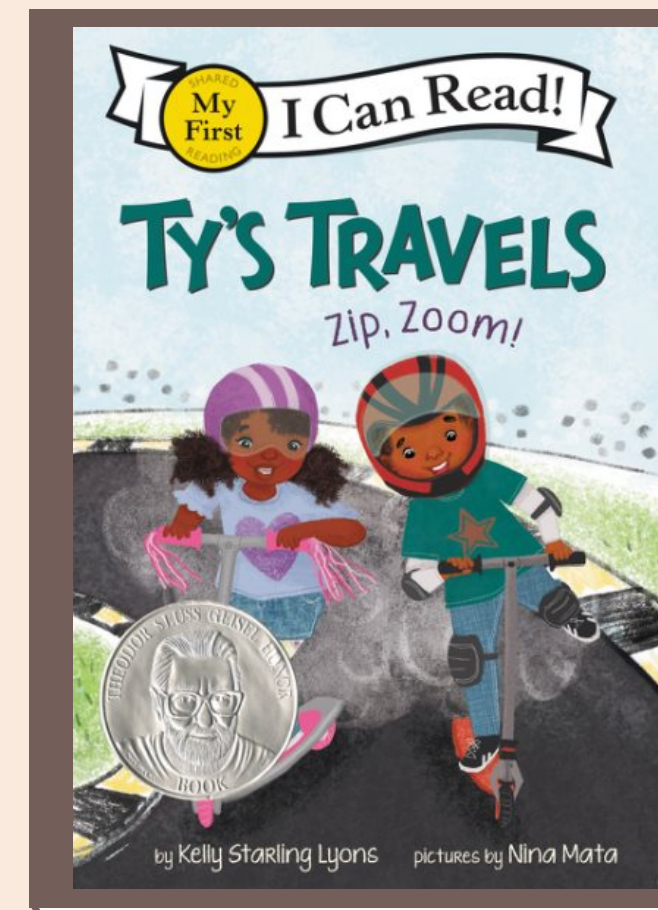
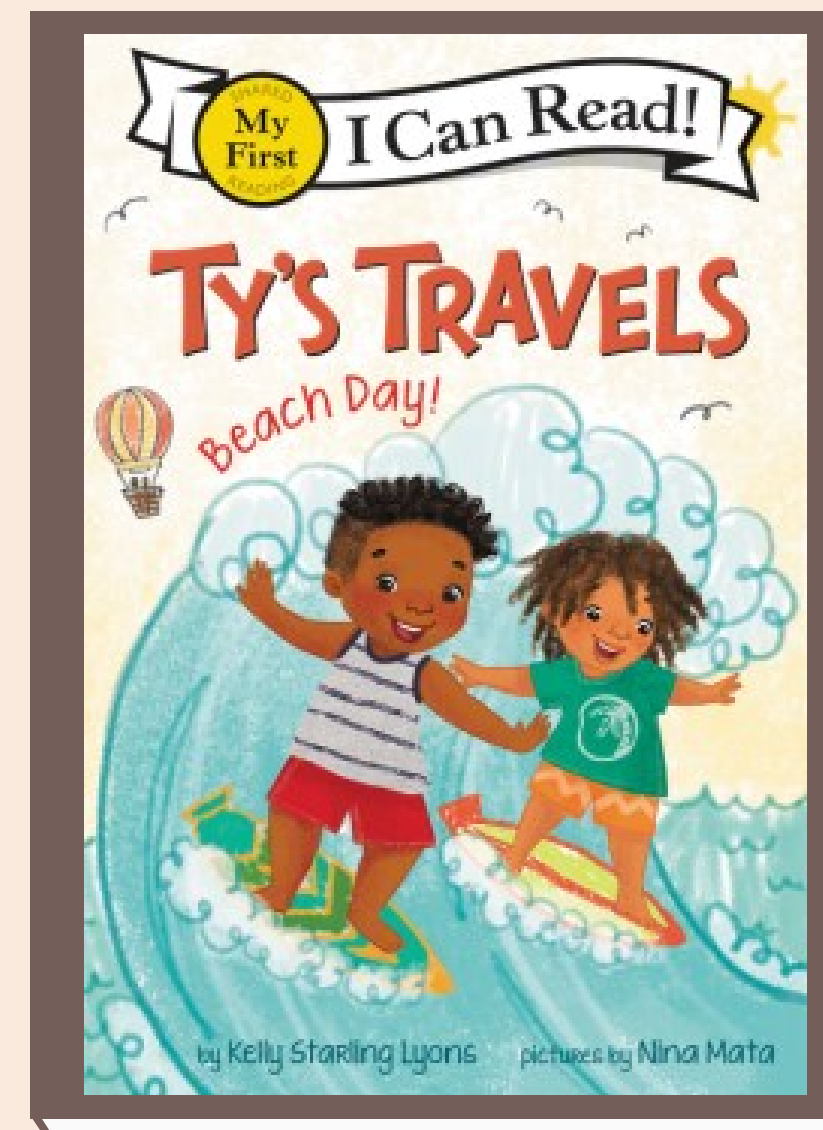




# Ty's Travels (series)

By Kelly Starling Lyons

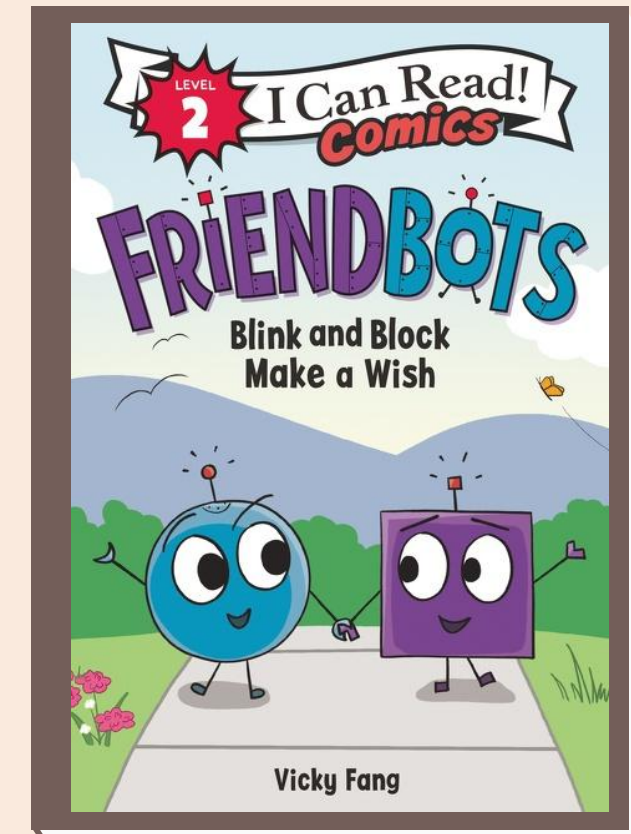
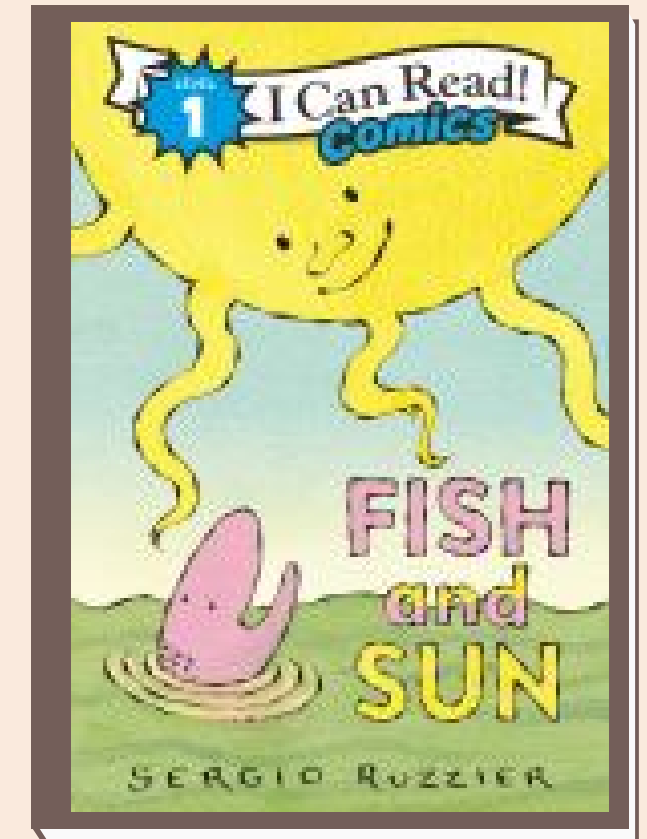
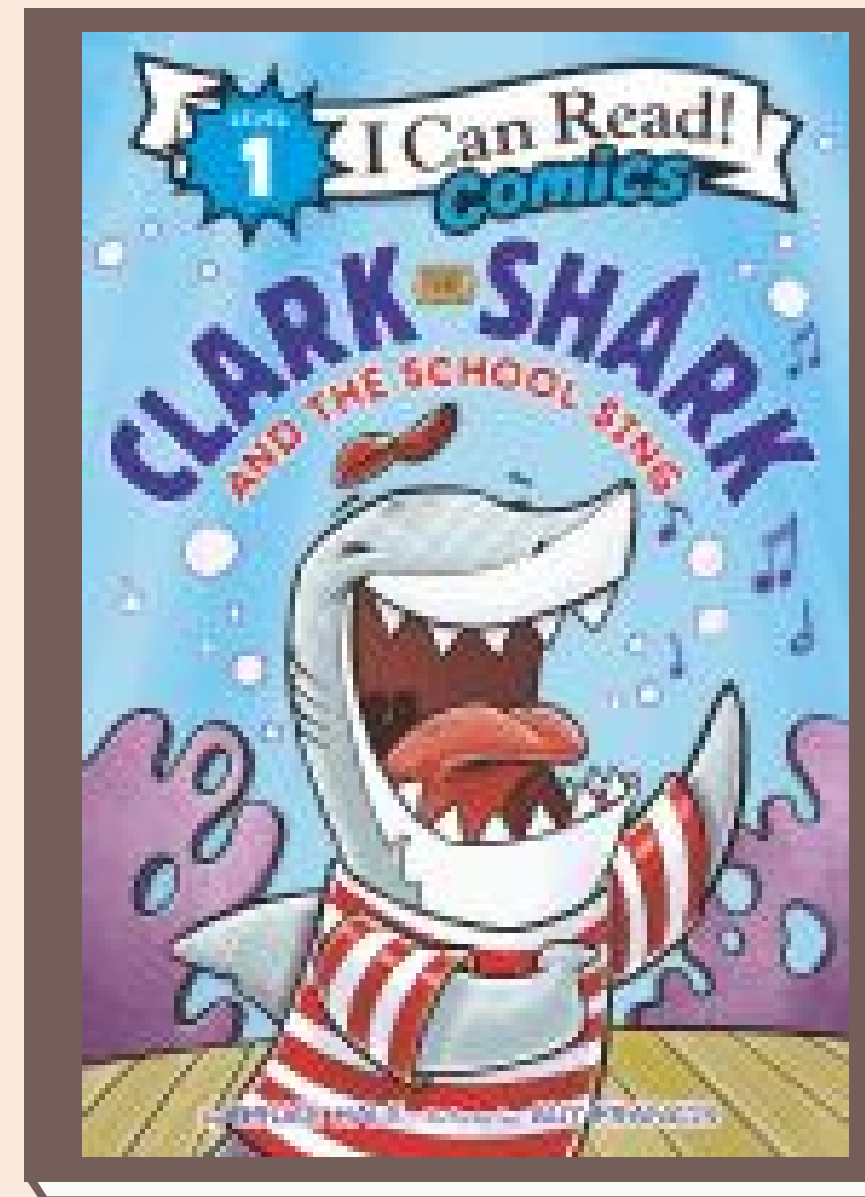
- Grades: pre-K to 3
- Easy readers
- By Kelly Starling Lyons, #ownvoices
- Geisel Honor winner 2021
- Culturally diverse characters, upbeat tone, African American boys and girls
- For those who enjoy:
  - friendship stories
  - play fiction
  - Little Critter series by Mercer Mayer
  - Jabari Tries by Gaia Cornwell
- Beach Day! new in May
- Lab Magic! expected in January 2022



# Clark the Shark and the School Sing

By Bruce Hale

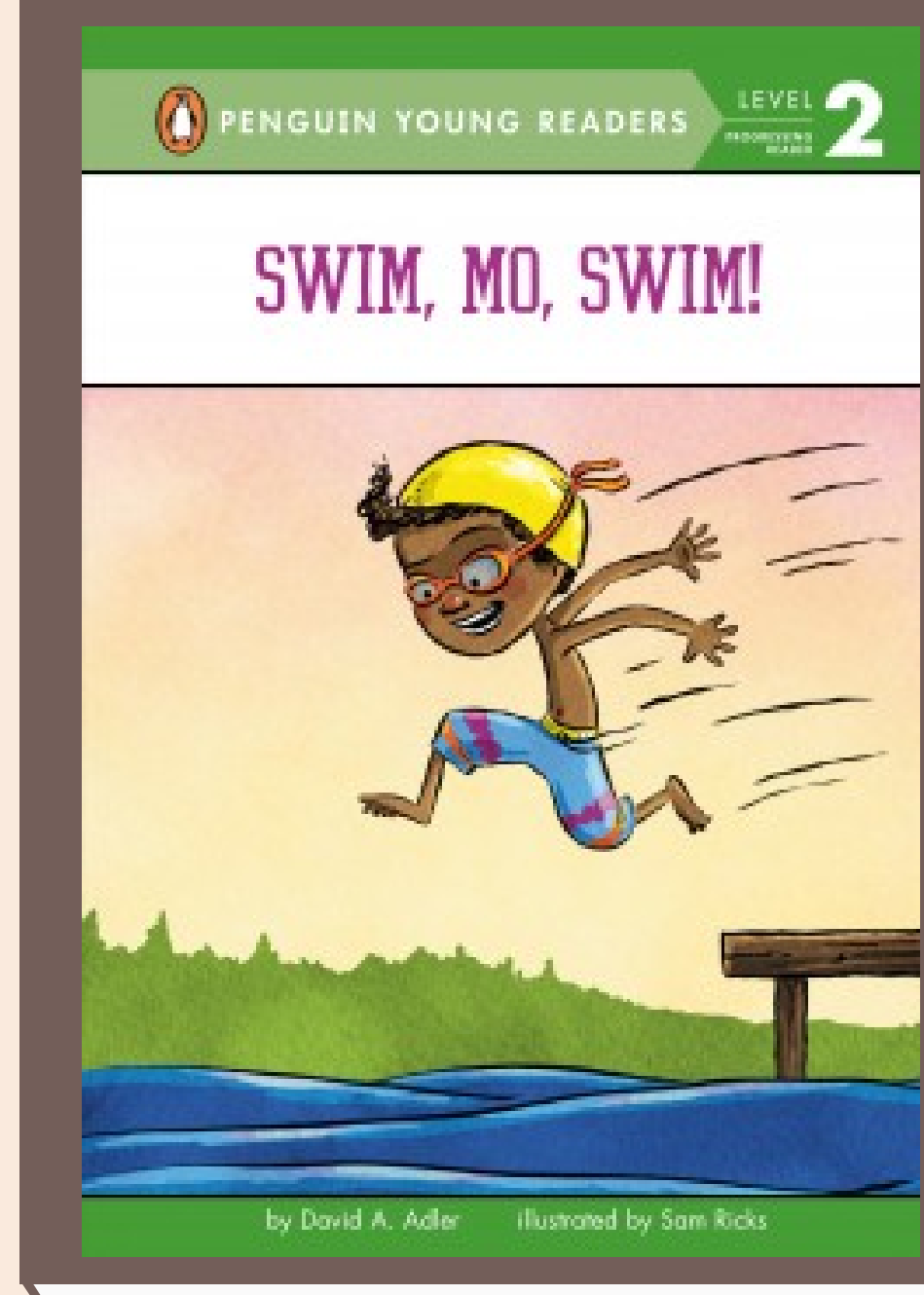
- Grades: Pre-K-grade 2
- Easy reader, graphic novel
- First book in I Can Read Comics series.  
Levels 1-3,
- \*• Bold colors, large comic book blocks, simple dialogue boxes
- For those who enjoy:
  - The Totally Secret Secret by Bob Shea
  - Pigs Make Me Sneeze by Mo Willems
- Watch for other books in series:
  - Fish and Sun by Sergio Ruzzier, L1
  - Friendbots#1: Make a Wish by Vicky Fang,L2
  - Tiny Tales #1: Shell Quest by Steph Waldo, L3



# Mo Jackson (series)

By David Adler

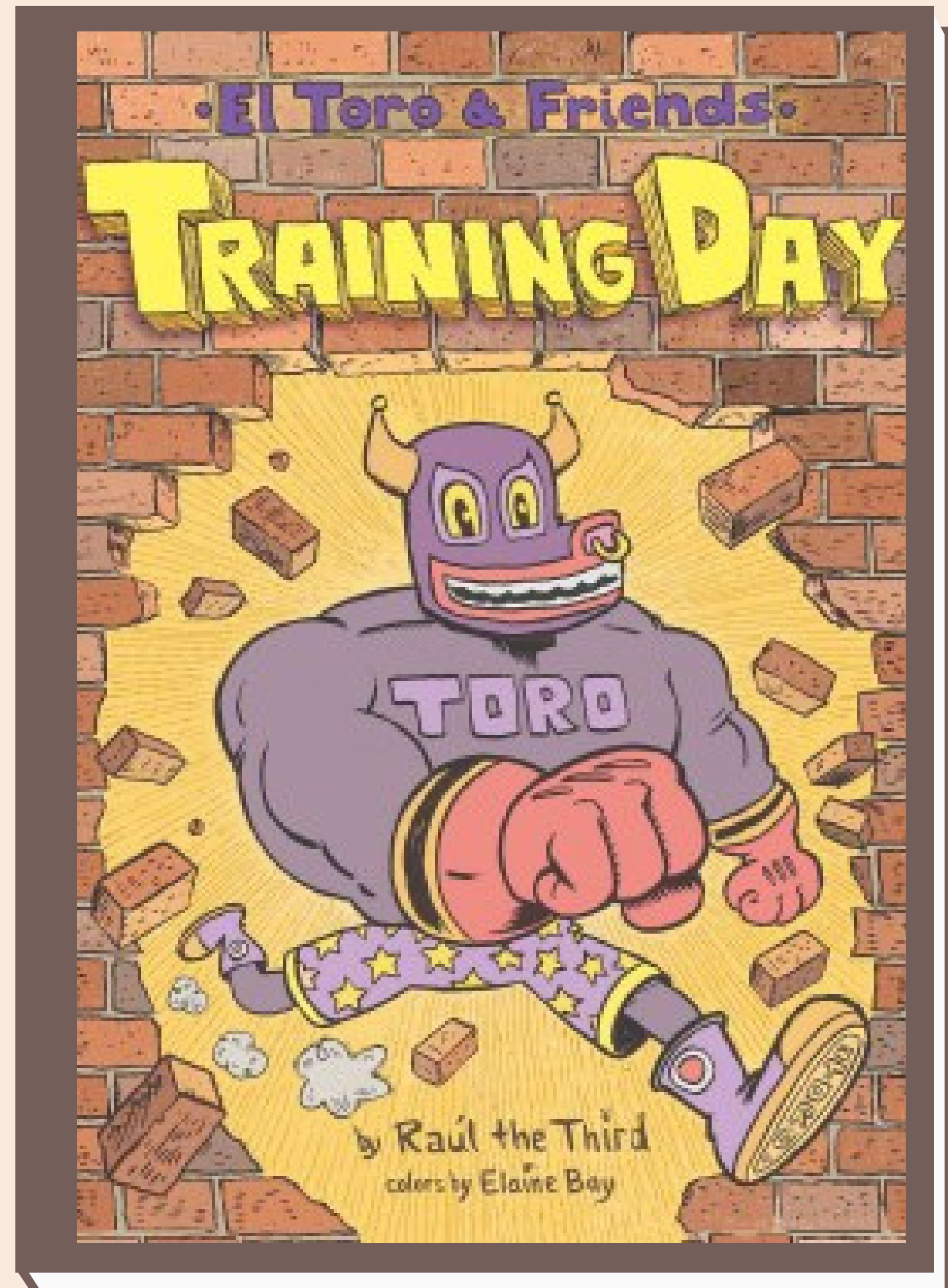
- Grades: 1-2
- Easy readers, Levels 1-3
- Series opener, *Don't Throw It To Mo!*
- 2016 Geisel Award
- 2018 Monarch Award Nominee
- 2020 additions to series
  - *Swim, Mo, Swim!*
  - *Run Mo Run!*
- Culturally diverse characters, upbeat tone
- *Spike It, Mo!* out in January 2022



# El Toro and Friends

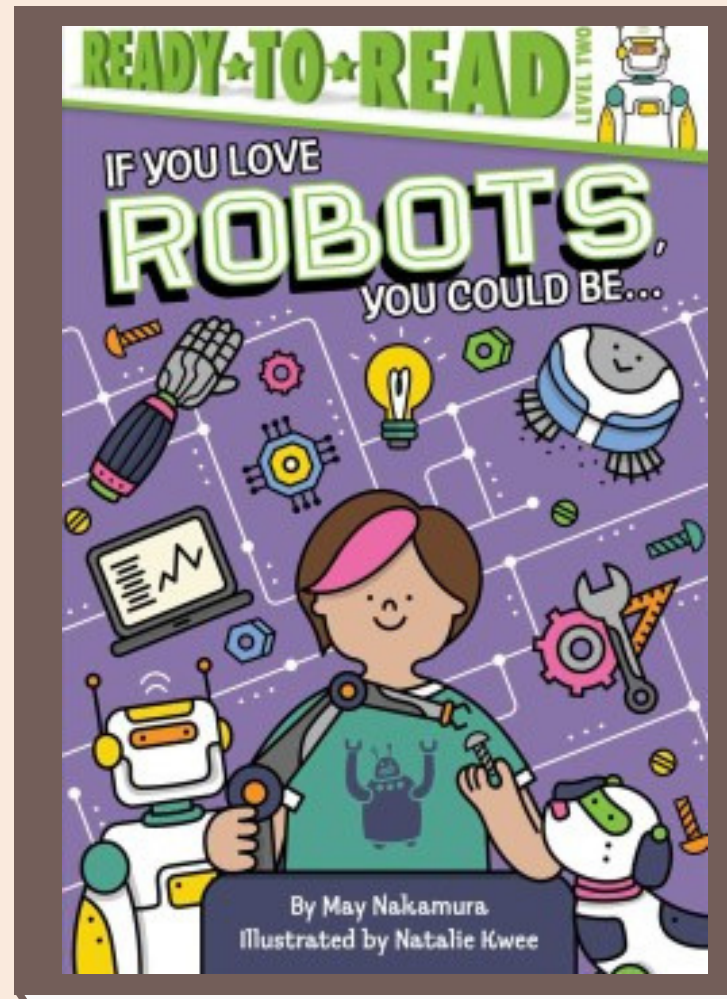
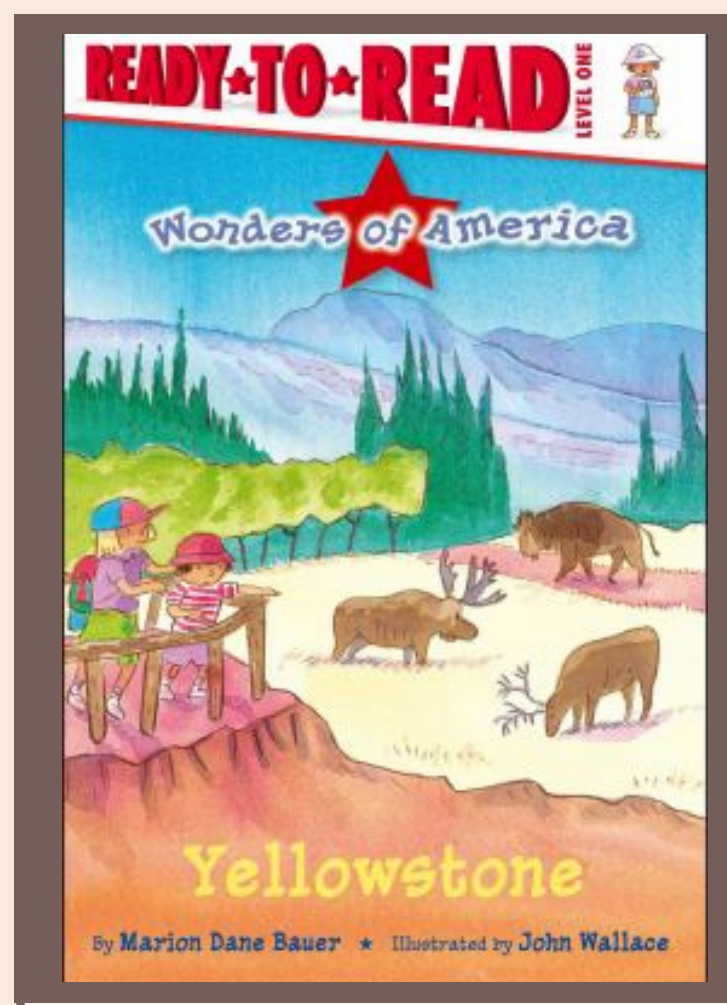
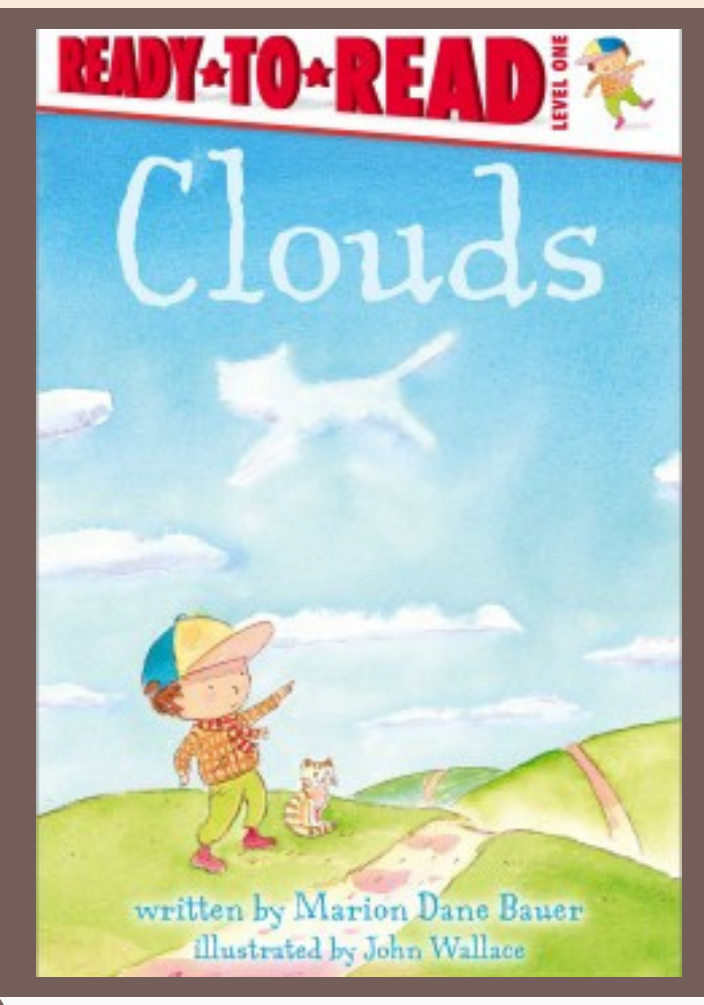
by Raúl the Third

- Grades: K-2
- characters: anthropomorphic
- illustrations: cartoony, humorous, action-packed
- writing: offbeat, attention-grabbing, lively banter
- bilingual text and Chicano cultural references
- new reader series set in the same Mexican border-town as the ¡Vamos! picture books
- Sequel: *Tag Team*



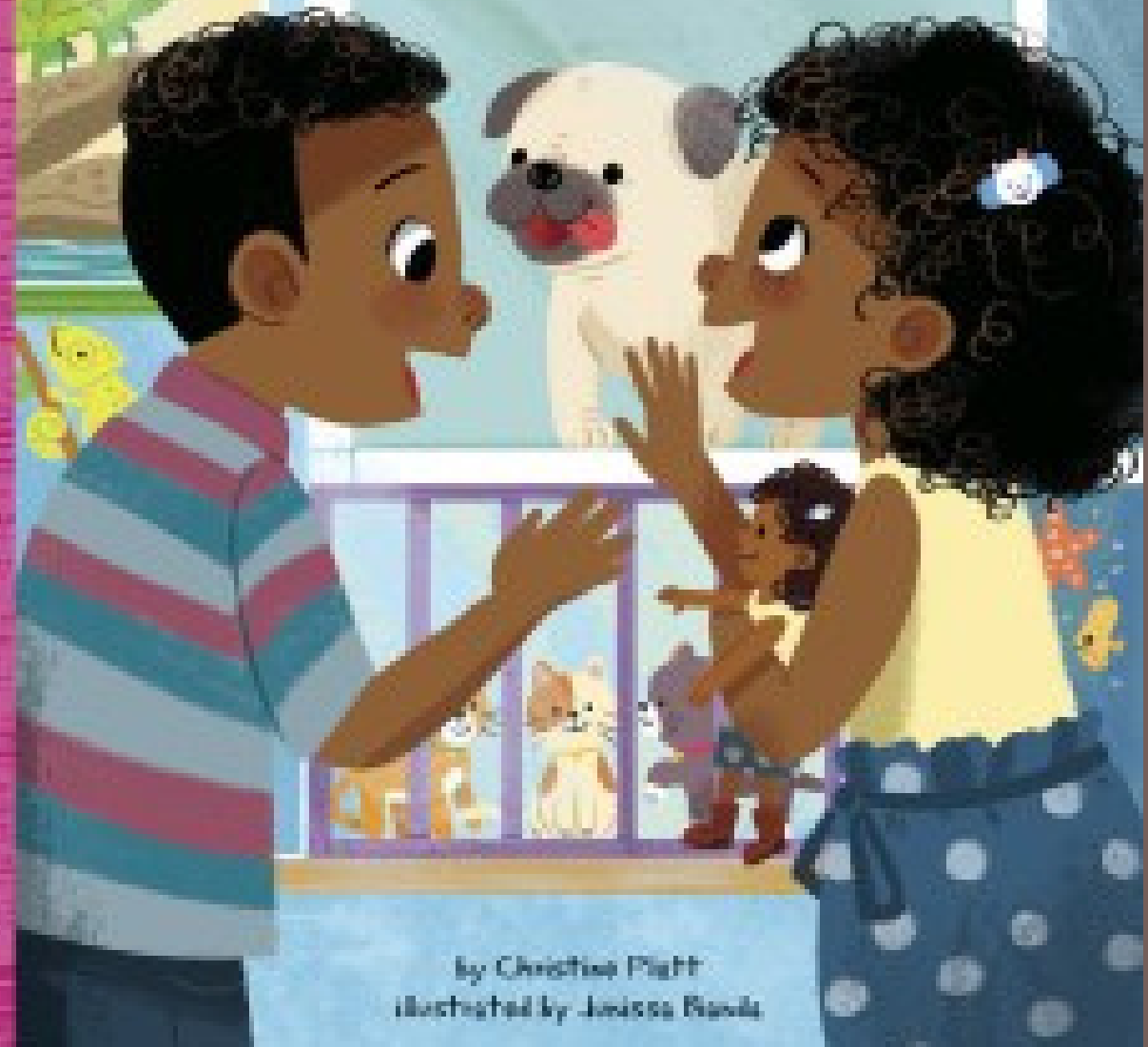
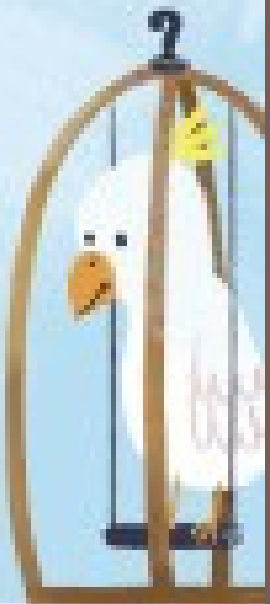
# Nonfiction Readers

- Marion Dane Bauer's Ready-To-Read series
  - weather 310-510L
  - science (Our Universe, Natural Disasters)
  - Wonders of America 520-720L
- In Our Neighborhood
  - 490-640L
  - two kids meet community helpers in town
  - features a Q&A with the helper and facts
- If You Love... You Could Be
  - 790-940L
  - introduces careers based on interests (robots, video games, books, cooking, fashion, dolphins)



# ana & ANDREW

The Perfect Pet



by Christine Platt  
illustrated by Jessica Rowle

# Ana & Andrew (series)

by Christine Platt

- 500-600L
- transitional reader (32 pages)
- sweet, inspiring, colorful
- \* • brother and sister explore hobbies, interests and the world
- lessons in various titles touch on SEL, different cultures, and/or American history
- African American #ownvoices, visits with relatives in Savannah, GA and Trinidad
- 14 books in series

# 13th Street (series)

by David Bowles

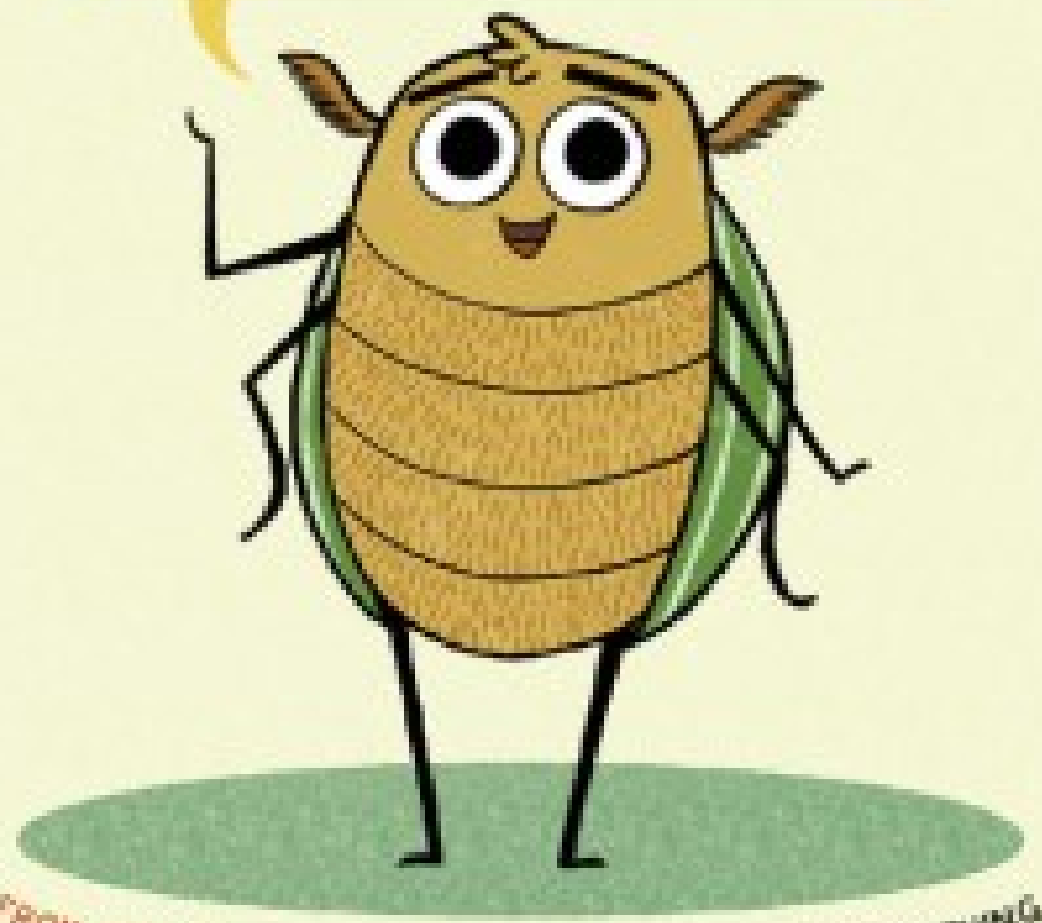
- Grades: 1-5
- storyline: fast-paced, attention-grabbing, scary
- Mexican American #ownvoices
- includes some Spanish words
- part of the new HarperChapters line featuring milestone markers, large text, frequent illustrations
- for those who enjoy Eerie Elementary and Notebooks of Doom
- Book 6 comes out in August: *Fight with the Freeze-Ray Fowl*



# Burt the Beetle Doesn't Bite!

By Ashley Spires

Ashley Spires  
**BURT  
THE  
BEETLE**  
**DOESN'T BITE!**



FROM BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE MOST MAGNIFICENT THING

- Grades: Pre-K-3
- Graphic novel
- By Ashley Spires, author, illustrator. Also *The Most Magnificent Thing*.
- \* • fact and fiction mix, simply-drawn panels, STEM, character education
- For those who enjoy:
  - Dry humor
  - Insect facts
  - "Diary" books by Doreen Cronin
  - "Disgusting Critters" series by Elise Gravel



☆☆☆ ARLO & PIPS ☆☆☆

# KING OF THE BIRDS

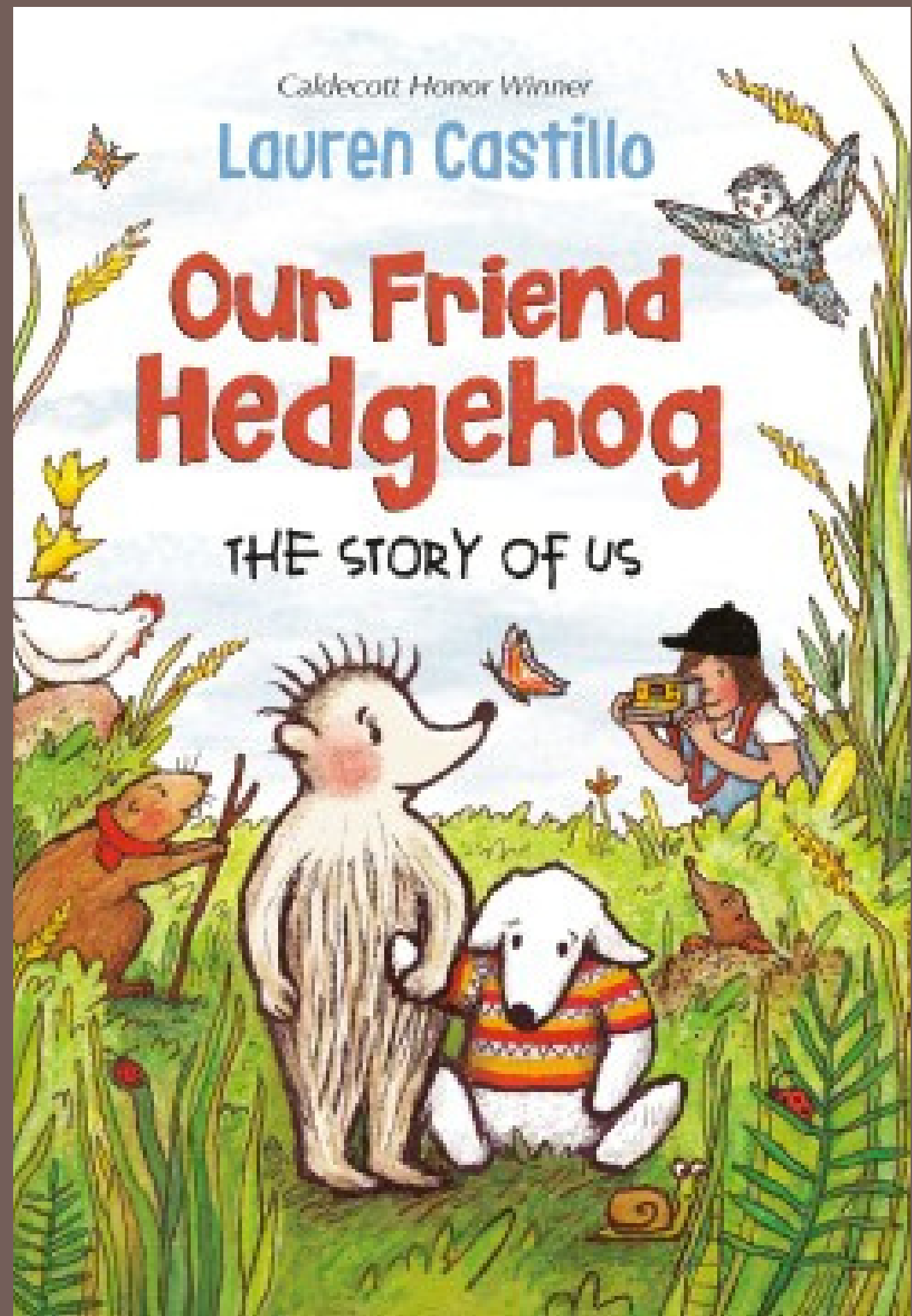
ELISE GRAVEL



# Arlo & Pips King of the Birds

By Elise Gravel

- Grades: 1-4
- Graphic novel
- By Elise Gravel
- Gentle humor, straightforward simple sentences, limited color scheme
- For those who enjoy:
  - animal friendships
  - misadventures
  - *Pizza and Taco* by Stephen Shaskan
  - *Pea, Bee, & Jay* by Brian Smith
- *Join the Crow Crowd*, volume 2 available in August



# Our Friend Hedgehog

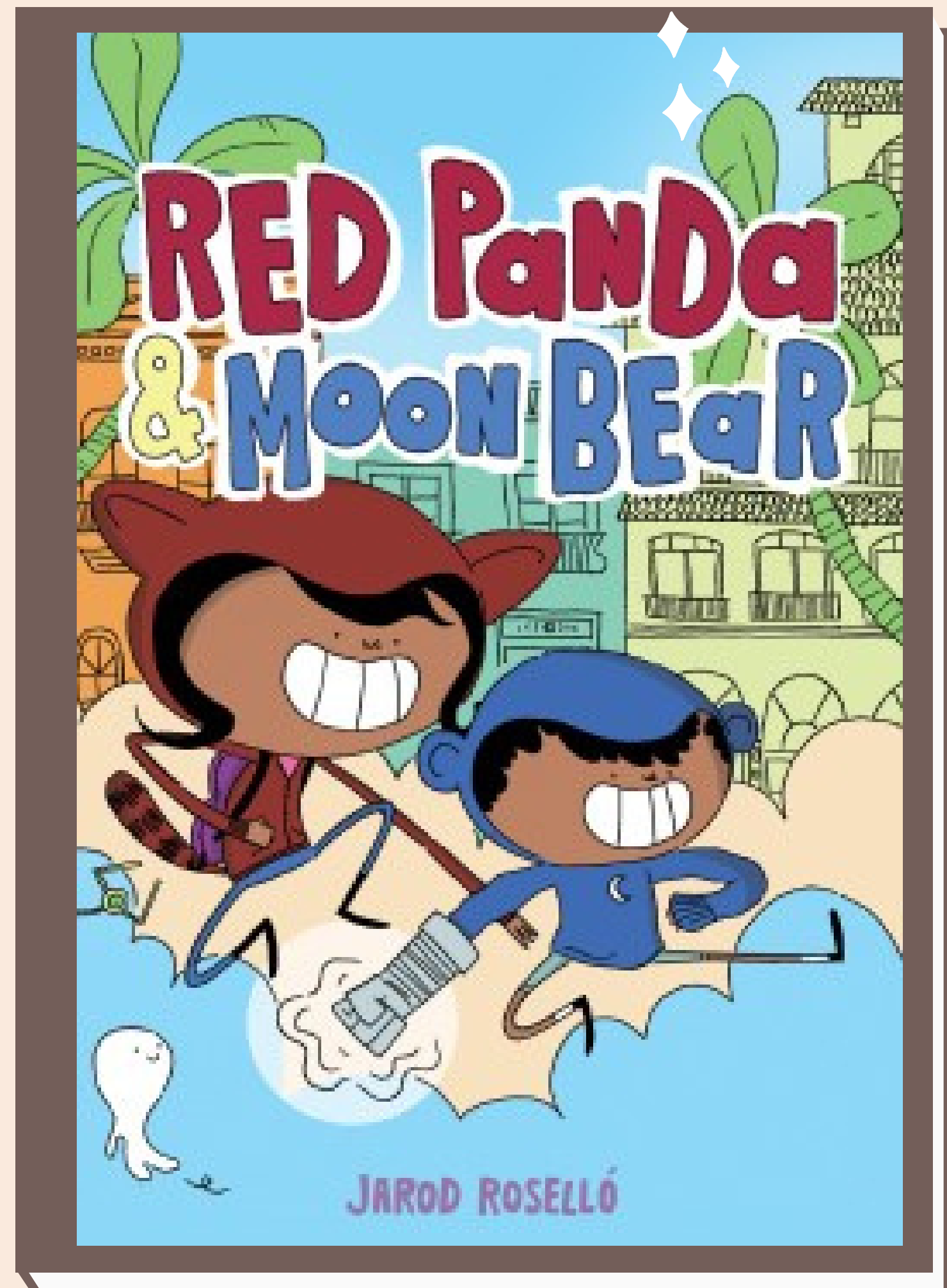
by Lauren Castillo

- 600L
- characters: anthropomorphic and human
- tone: sweet, attention-grabbing
- \* • themes: community, courage, new beginnings
- a Winnie-the-Pooh style adventure to rescue a friend
- For those who enjoy:
  - the cozy feel of classic children's literature like Winnie-the-Pooh
  - Mercy Watson

# Red Panda & Moon Bear

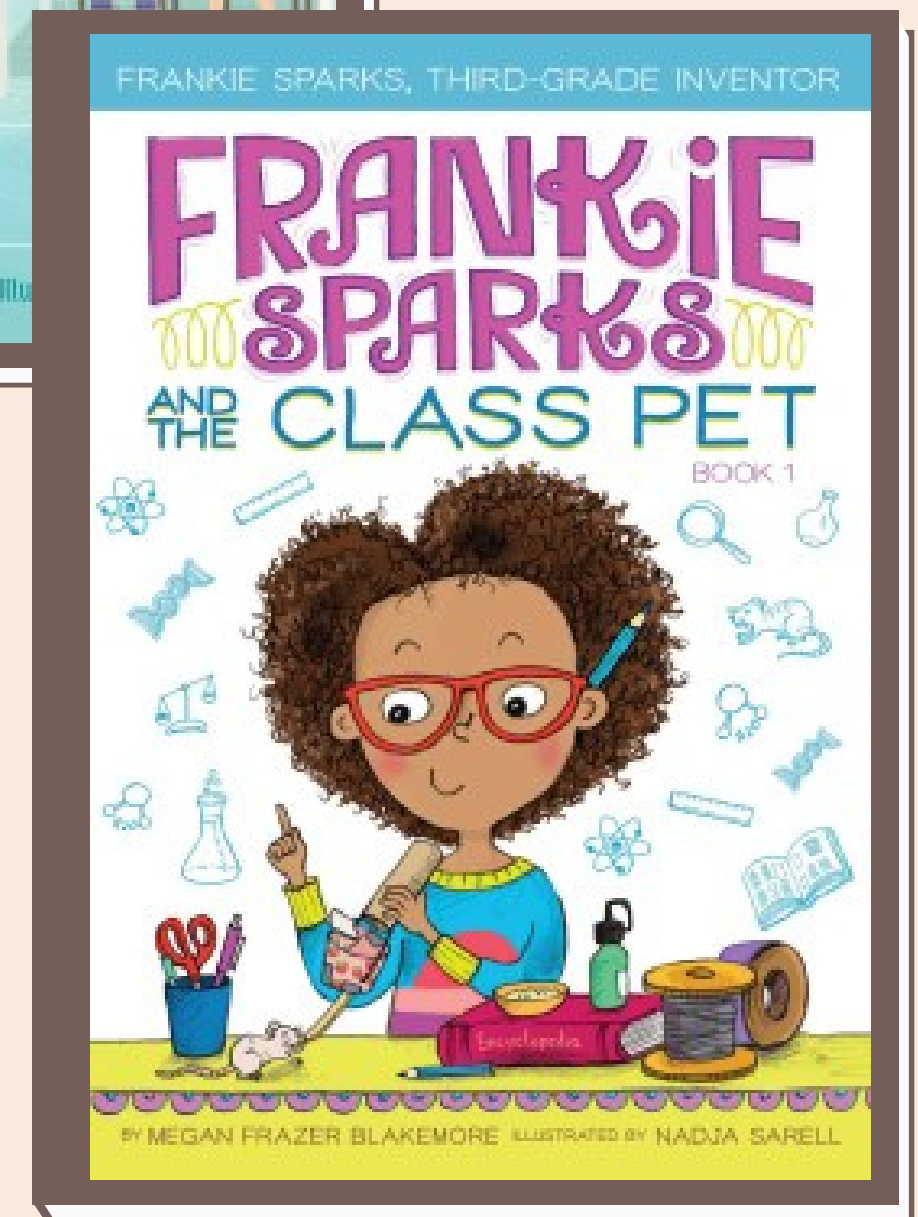
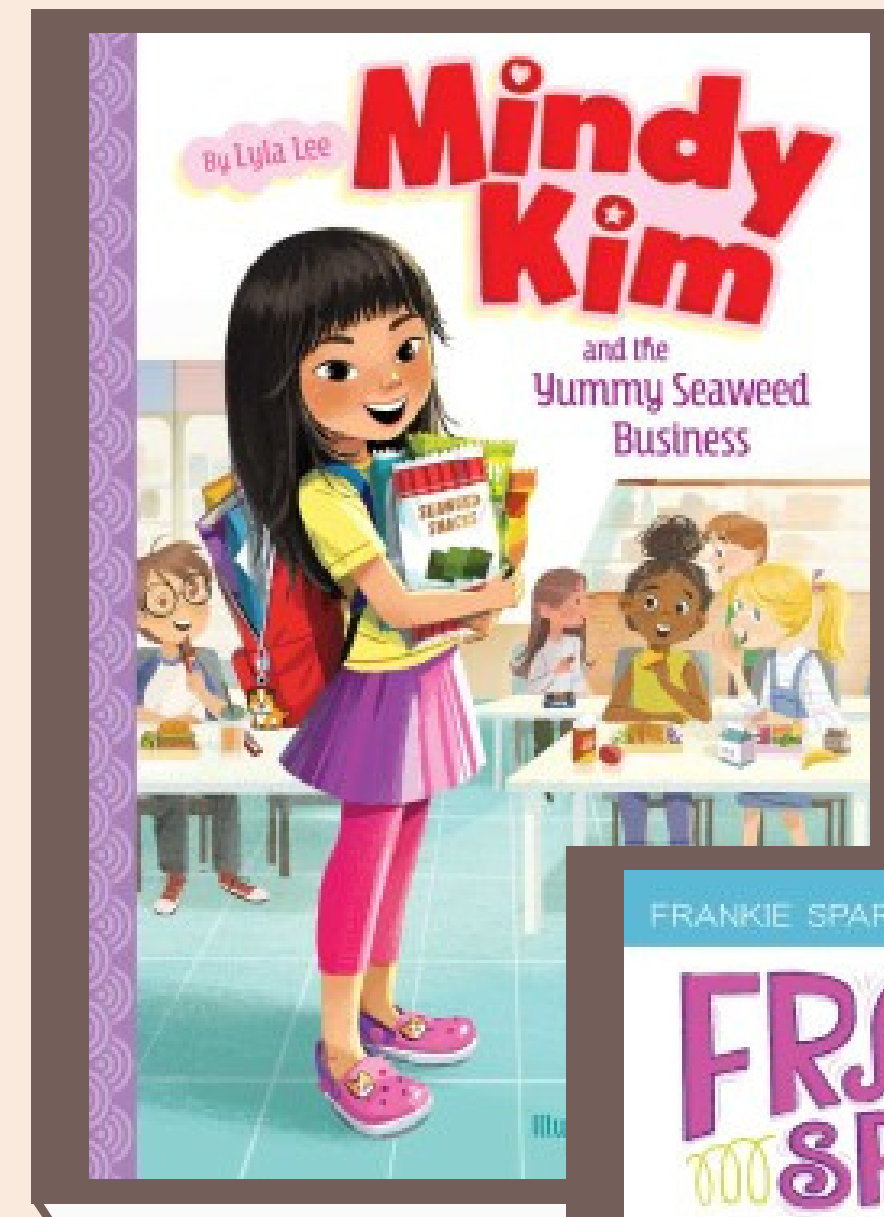
by Jarod Roselló

- 230L, gr. 4-6
- graphic novel
- illustrations: cartoony
- funny, action-packed, whimsical, heart-warming
- Cuban American brother and sister battle supernatural threats with science, magic, and hoodies
- Spanish interspersed throughout
- also available in Spanish: *Panda roja y oso lunar*
- Book 2: *The Curse of the Evil Eye* coming in February



# #ownvoices Early Chapter Book Series

- Mindy Kim by Lyla Lee
  - 630-680L
  - upbeat, believable and likeable characters
  - Korean American family
  - Books 5-7 coming September - January
- Frankie Sparks by Megan Frazer Blakemore
  - 620-670L
  - feel-good, relatable, STEM fiction
  - self-proclaimed 'best inventor in third grade'
  - for fans of Birney's Humphrey series and Cleary's Ramona
  - four books



DAWN QUIGLEY

# Jo Jo Makoons



THE USED-TO-BE BEST FRIEND

ILLUSTRATED BY TARA AUDIBERT

# Jo Jo Makoons The Used-to-Be Best Friend

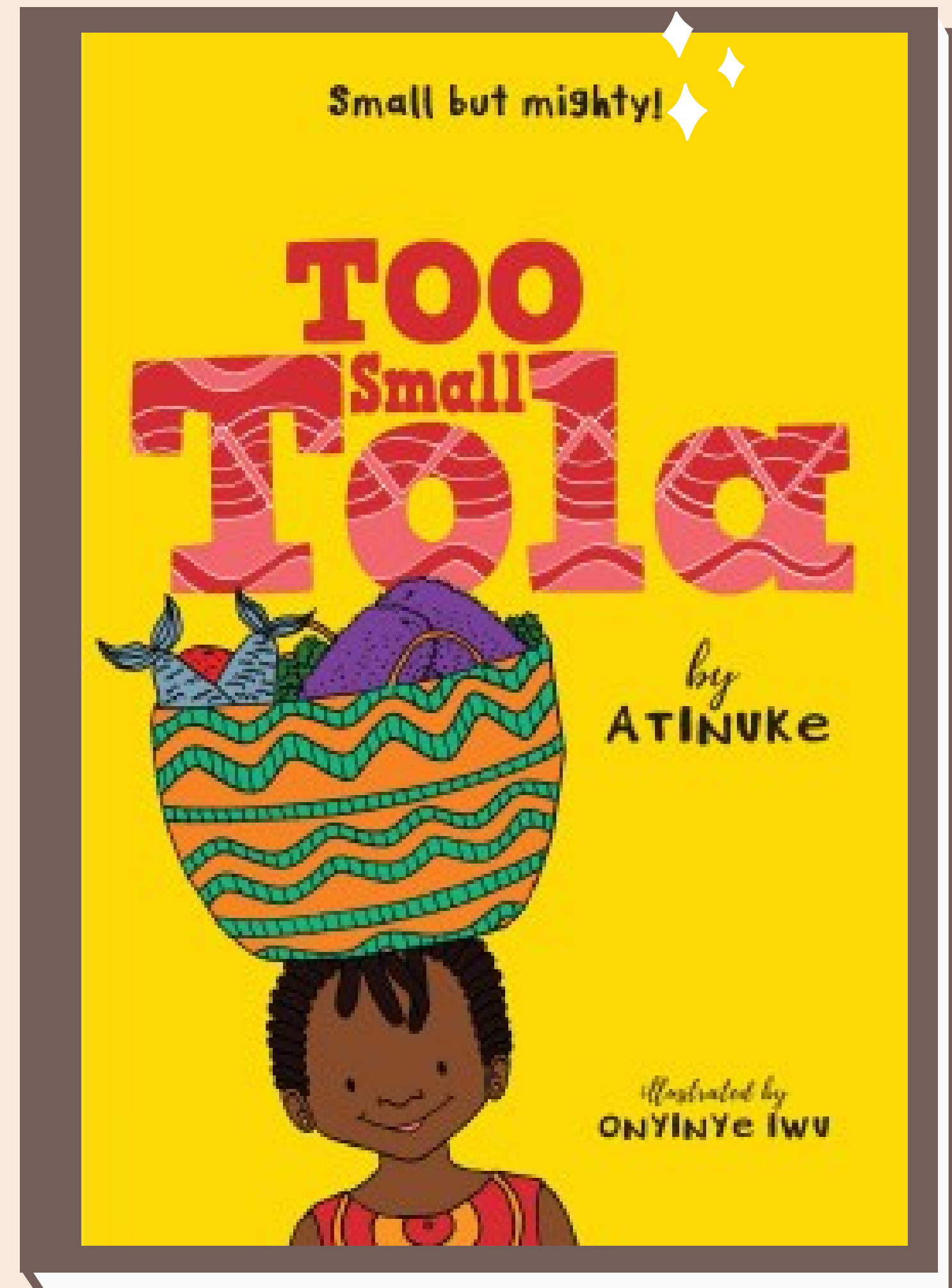
By Dawn Quigley

- Grades: 2-5
- Transitional Reader
- By Dawn Quigley, citizen of Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe, North Dakota.
- Charismatic 1st grade narrator, short chapters, diverse characters
- For those who enjoy:
  - humor
  - friendship stories
  - *Dory Fantasmagory* by Abby Hanlon
  - *Juana & Lucas* by Juana Medina

# Too Small Tola

By Atinuke

- Grades: 2-4
- Transitional Reader
- By Atinuke (Nigerian storyteller)
- Three short tales, city life, simple sentence structure, manageable chapters
- For those who enjoy:
  - wry humor
  - caring for one's community
  - *Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen* by Debbie Michiko Florence



*She* Persisted

BASED ON THE BESTSELLING PICTURE BOOK SERIES BY  
Chelsea Clinton & Alexandra Boiger

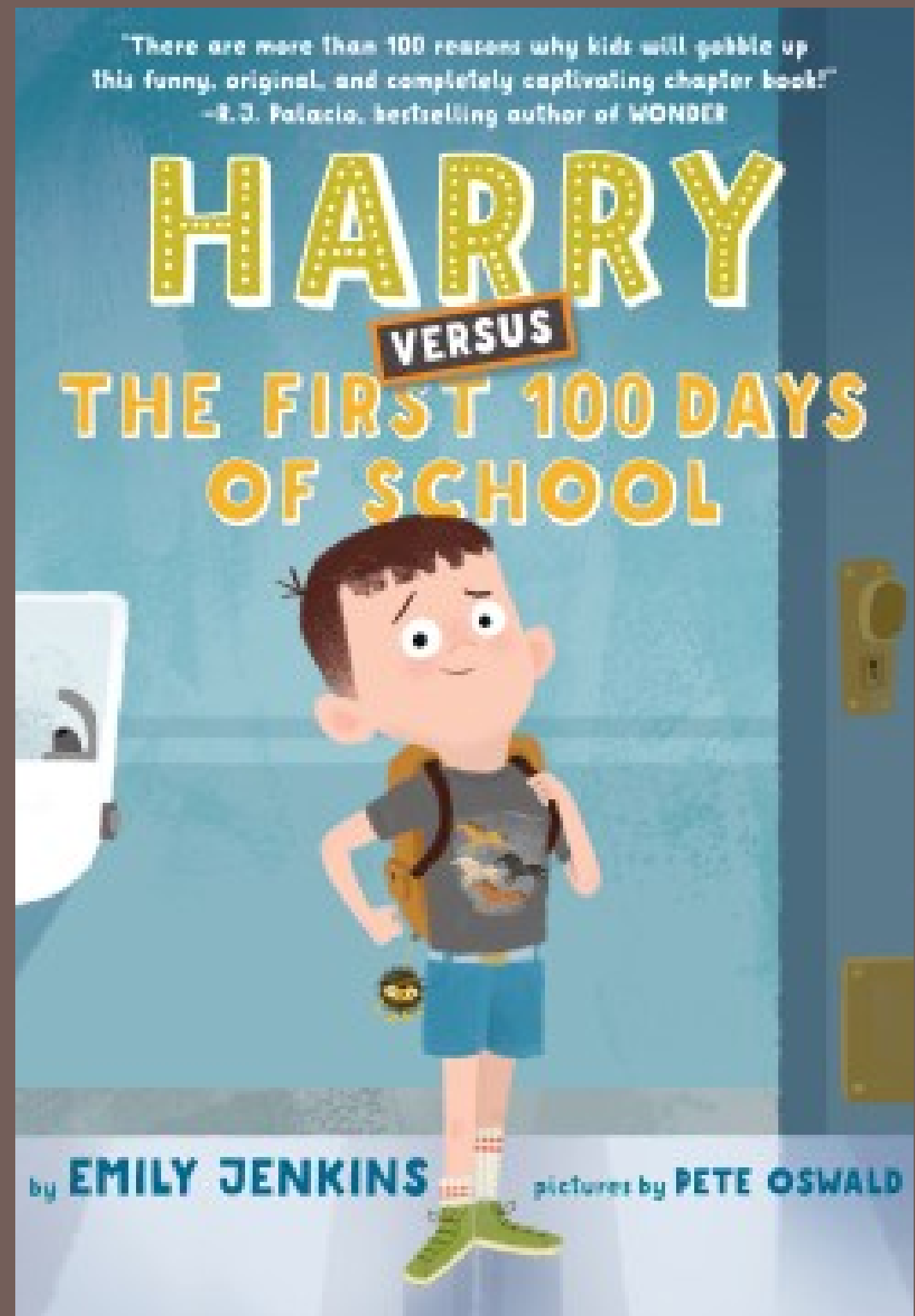
# HARRIET TUBMAN

Written by Andrea Davis Pinkney



## She Persisted biography series

- Harriet Tubman by Andrea Davis Pinkney
- Early chapter book, grades 2-4
- \* • Focus on strong women in history
- Fast-paced, short chapters, conversational tone
- 13 total books in series releasing 2021 and 2022. Nellie Bly, Sally Ride, Oprah Winfrey, Helen Keller and more
- For those who enjoy the Brad Melzer series Ordinary People Change the World



# Harry Versus The First 100 Days of School

By Emily Jenkins  
Pete Oswald, il

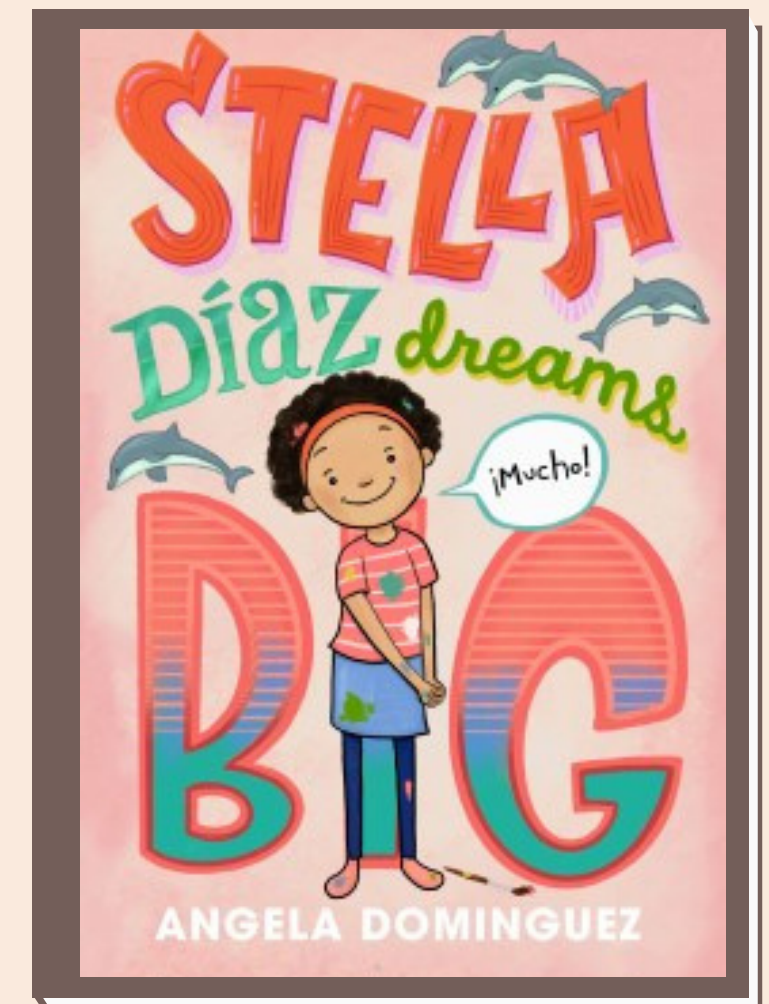
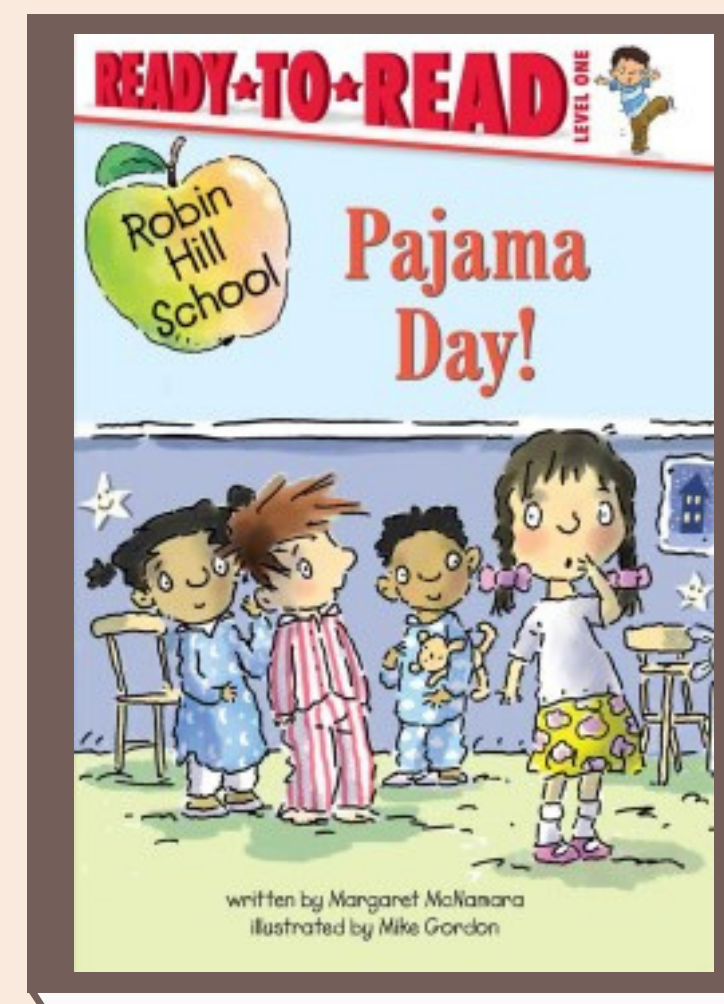
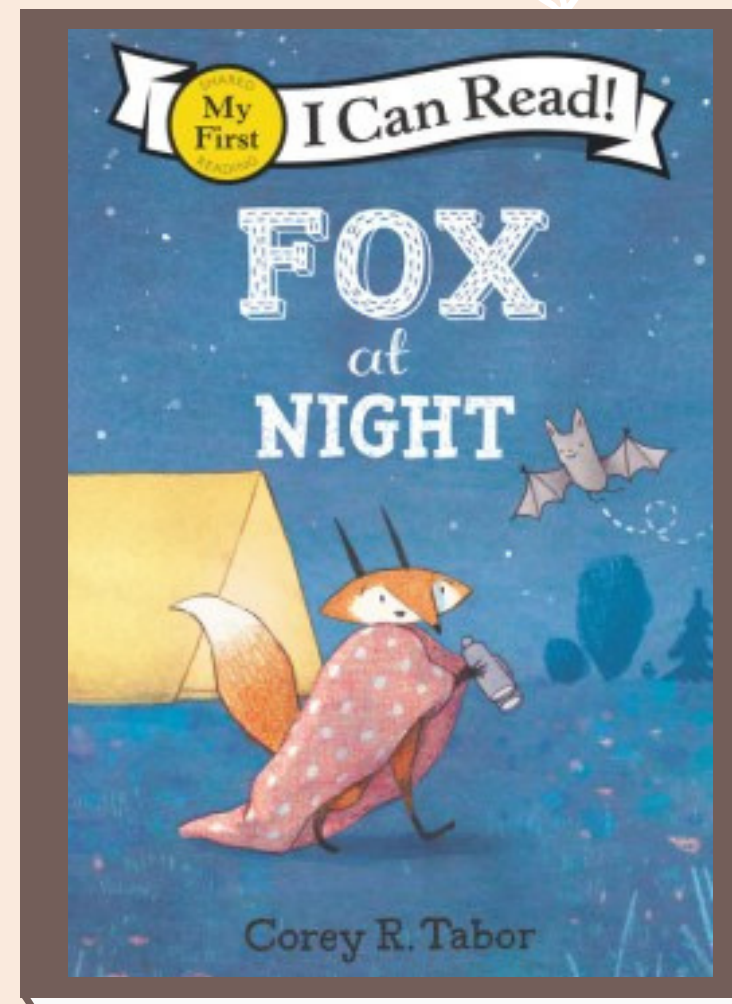
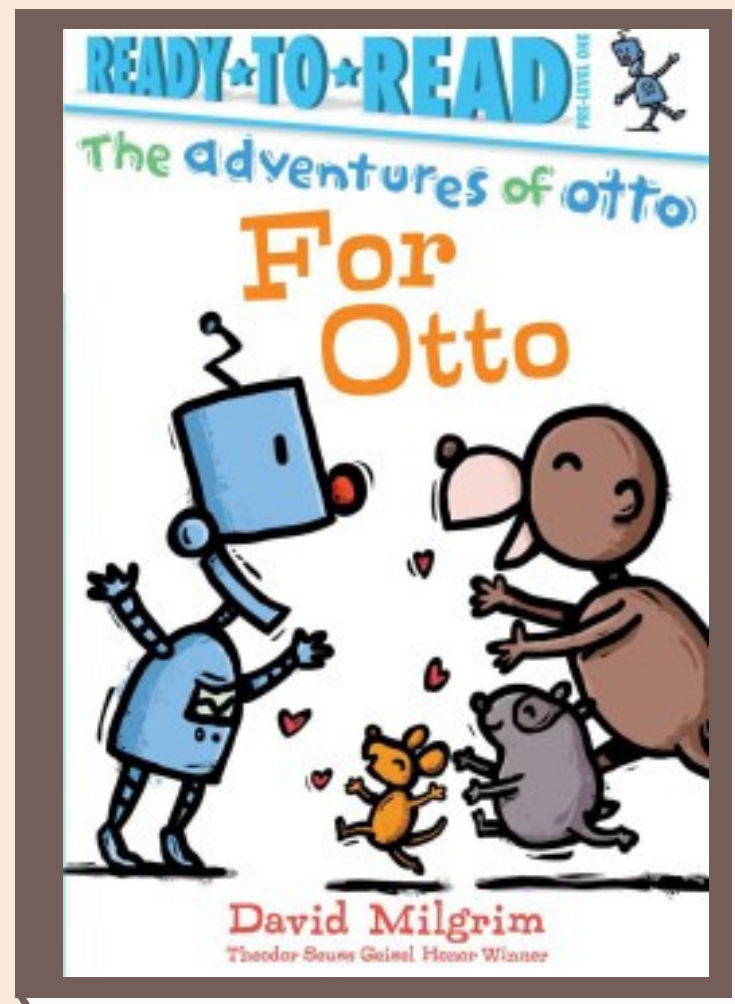
- Early chapter book, grades K-3
- \* • 19 very short chapters
- Daily journal style in third person narration
- Attention-grabbing, well-crafted dialogue
- Feel good story, funny, upbeat
- Realistic, comical, heartwarming journey set in public school in Brooklyn, NY
- Great read aloud!



# Award-Winning Authors

Continuing series with new releases

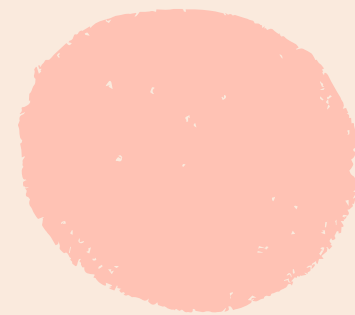
- Otto by David Milgrim
- Fox by Corey Tabor
- Robin Hill School by Margaret McNamara
- Stella Díaz by Angela Dominguez



**Thank you!**



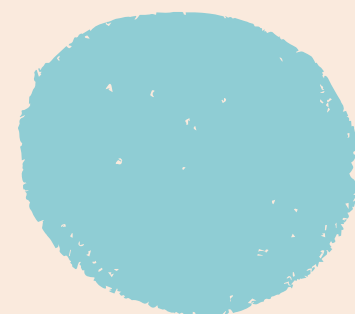
**Michelle Kurczak**  
mkurczak@messengerpl.org



**Sue Skells**  
sskells@messengerpl.org



**630-801-4340**



**ysd@messengerpl.org**

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